

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make a number of editorial revisions. Due to the number of changes involved, a substitute specification and abstract have been prepared and are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added. Enclosed is a marked-up copy of the original specification and abstract indicating the same changes incorporated into the substitute specification and abstract.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner required Fig. 8 to be labeled with a legend "Prior Art." Such an amendment of Fig. 8 is submitted concurrently herewith.

Also on page 2, the Examiner objects to Figs. 2, 3, 5, and 8 for including Japanese labels. However, it appears that the Examiner is viewing the originally filed application, which was filed in Japanese. It is requested that the Examiner use the translated drawings which were filed on December 10, 2003. It is noted that the PAIR online system of the USPTO includes the translated drawings in the image file wrapper.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner required a new title indicative of the claimed invention. Accordingly, by this amendment, the title of the invention has been changed to "PLASMA DISPLAY PANEL INCLUDING DIELECTRIC LAYER THAT DOES NOT COVER PART OF A DISCHARGE GAP."

Also on page 3, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato (JP 2000-123746). This rejection is traversed and is believed to be inapplicable to new claims 6-13.

Claims 1-5 have been canceled in favor of claims 6-13. Claim 6 includes the substantive limitations of claims 1 and 2 rewritten to improve the U.S. form of the claims. Thus, claim 6 recites, in the last paragraph, "a thickness of said dielectric layer in a direction in which the two parallel-disposed electrodes face each other is not larger than a thickness of said dielectric layer in a direction in which the display electrode faces said second substrate such that discharge is generated in the direction in which the two parallel-disposed electrodes face each other." Please refer to Fig. 3,

thicknesses A and B, and specification, page 5, lines 17 and 18 which disclose that thickness A is designed equal to or thicker than thickness B. The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest this feature. It is noted that the Examiner states that it is clearly evident from Figs. 6 and 7 of Kato that the thickness of the dielectric layer 11 in a direction where the pair of electrodes 41 and 42 face each other is not larger than that in a direction where the pair of display electrodes face the rear substrate. However, the Examiner's attention is directed to MPEP § 2126 which states that when the reference does not disclose that the drawings are to scale and is silent as to dimensions, arguments based on measurement of the drawing features are of little value, but that the description of the article pictured can be relied on in combination with the drawings for what they would reasonably teach one of ordinary skill in the art. In the present case, Kato does not state that the drawings are to scale and is silent on the dimensions in the drawings. Moreover, Kato does not provide any description with regard to the thickness in the dielectric layer in a direction where the pair of display electrodes 41 and 42 face each other with respect to the thickness in a direction where the pair of display electrodes face the rear substrate. Accordingly, it is submitted that Kato does not anticipate claim 6 of the present application.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Uemura (JP 2002-85811). As discussed above, new claim 6 includes the substantive recitations of claims 1 and 2. Therefore, Uemura clearly does not anticipate new claim 6.

On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Kasahara (JP 2001-006562). This rejection is traversed is believed to be inapplicable to new claims 6-13.

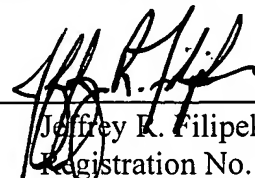
Kasahara was relied on by the Examiner for teachings regarding a float electrode. However, Kasahara does not resolve the missing disclosure of Kato regarding the thickness dimensions of the dielectric layer as recited in claim 6 of the present application. Accordingly, a combination of Kato and Kasahara would not result in the inventions recited in claims 6-13 in the present application.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that claims 6-13 are allowable over the prior art of record and that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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